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Vol. 20, No. 15/January 23, 1998

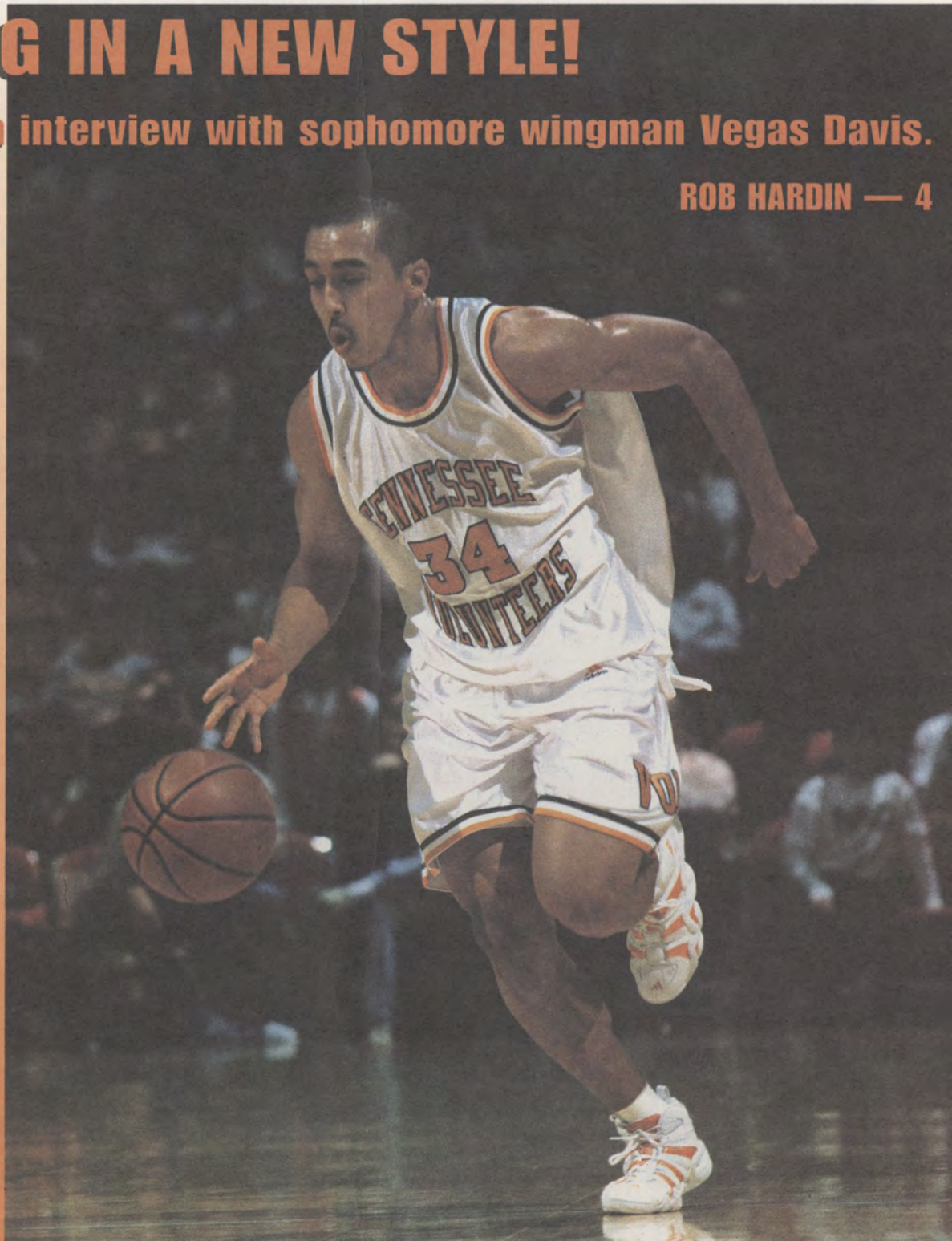
Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

EXCELLING IN A NEW STYLE!

An interview with sophomore wingman Vegas Davis.

ROB HARDIN — 4



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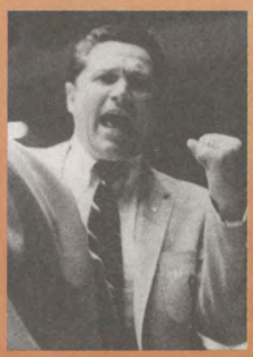

14 THE LAST WORD "MAN ON A MISSION!" TOM MATTINGLY

Summitt T.V. Show To Air

Head Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt will have a weekly television show that will air on two stations from the beginning of January through the first week of March. The show will appear on the Fox Sports South cable network on Wednesdays at 3 p.m., and locally on WBIR-TV channel 10 on Saturdays at noon.

Summitt Story To Appear In Sports Illustrated

Senior writer Gary Smith of Sports Illustrated featured Pat Summitt in a recent story, which is scheduled to appear in a yet-to-be-determined February issue of SI. A previous article, "Did Someone Say Meek", featuring junior All-American forward Chamique Holdsclaw, freshmen forward Tamika Catchings and guard Semeka Randall by Kelli Anderson, appeared in the magazine on Dec. 8, 1997.

Milligan Details Season In Diary

Up on the Lady Vol website, UT women's basketball fans can now receive an insider's point-of-view on what it means to be a Lady Vol basketball player as senior guard Laurie Milligan documents the 1997-98 campaign in a bi-weekly diary. The diary, a new feature of the Lady Vol website, is also done for each of the other 10 women's sports. To access Milligan's diary or any of the others, call up the women's athletics website at **http://ath.utk.edu/womens/**, go to basketball, choose the season page and the diary option is in the left-hand column.

Molina Finishes 11th at World Championships

Senior All-America Fabiola Molina made her debut in the 8th FINA World Swimming Championships by placing 11th in the 100m backstroke in 1:03.6 on Jan 14. She also competed in the 200m backstroke on Sat., Jan. 17. The meet is being held in Perth, Australia.

Ferguson Chosen To Coach World Juniors

USA Track & Field selected Lady Vol head coach Myrtle Ferguson to be an assistant for the U.S. women's team at the IAAF World Junior Track & Field Championships from July 28-Aug. 2. Ferguson, the first-year mentor of the Lady Vols, will join head coach Diane Philipp of Hillsdale (Mich.) College and work primarily with the sprint, hurdle and jumps corps.

Updates on Track and Field Athletes

Tracy Carrington, a junior transfer from the University of Colorado, has enrolled to compete for the Lady Vols this semester and is eligible for the indoor season. The Ft. Worth, Texas, native is a pole vaulter whose personal best is 12 feet. Two athletes will redshirt during the indoor season. Sophomore long/triple jumper Zakiah Modeste has still not fully recovered from her knee surgery, nor has junior All-American sprinter Heather Sumpter. Both will sit out the indoor campaign to prepare for the outdoor season.

Swimming Hosts Senior Day

The 13th-ranked Lady Vol swimming and diving team only has three meets at home this season and the final one is set for Feb. 7 against 11th-ranked Florida. On that day, the eight seniors, plus one manager, will be recognized. Included among those to be honored are five swimming All-Americas: Tori DeSilvia, Jen Mancini, Leslie Mix, Fabiola Molina and Emily Plummer. Joining them are swimmers Luciana Abe and Paula Marsiglia, diver Cheri Sears and manager Allison Thompson.

Softball To Open Season in Arizona

Feb. 12 will be the season-opener for the Lady Vol softball team as it travels to play 1997 NCAA Tournament participant Arizona State in Tempe, Ariz. The game will be a preview of the competition Tennessee will see as the Wildcats host the Coca-Cola Classic from Feb. 13-15. UT will play Utah and defending national champion Arizona on the 13th, Texas and Oregon on the 14th, and Women's College World Series participant Washington and Detroit Mercy on the 15th.

—Lady Vol Staff

To find out more on the Lady Vols, check out their web page at: **http://ath.utk.edu/womens**

1998 UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS BASEBALL

TENNESSEE

Tennessee baseball will once again offer choice tickets to some of the most popular home Southeastern Conference Series in 1998.

For $25 - You can watch the Vols take on:
ARKANSAS, AUBURN, FLORIDA, KENTUCKY AND VANDERBILT

With your $25 purchase you can choose from either a Friday or Saturday game in each of the five series. Just think! For $5 a game you will see some of America's best baseball. And what better way to enjoy the game than sitting in the bleacher back seats.

If you want to see baseball at its best, then you need to call the UT Ticket Office at:
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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

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Mailing Address
Volunteers Magazine
Post Office Box 15016, Knoxville, TN 37901-5016

UT Printing Authorization
E01-8601-10-001-98

Volunteers Magazine (ISSN 10867775, USPS 013815) is published once in August, weekly September through November, once in December, twice monthly January through June and once in August. Subscription cost is $29.97 yearly. The known office of publication is 267 Stokely Athletic Center, 1720 Volunteer Boulevard, Knoxville, TN 37996. Periodical postage paid at Nashville, Tenn. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to Volunteers Magazine, P.O. Box 15016, Knoxville, TN 37901-5016

From the Editor

I suppose that I'm as big a football fan as the next guy, and that may be an understatement, but during the winter, my heart belongs to basketball.

It's been that way since the late 1950s when I saw my first game in Alumni Gym and later in the decade at the old Armory Fieldhouse, sitting in the chair seats at the end of the court and occasionally on the first row of the balcony on the west side.

Long-time Vol fans will remember that timer Sid Hankins used a mirror to watch the Alumni Gym clock, which was located above the stage on the side right where he couldn't see it directly. Hence the mirror. He also had a pistol he used to signify the end of the half or the game. His son, Sid, still runs the clock at Thompson-Boling Arena. Without the pistol.

More than hoops on the Hill, however, there were Saturday morning hoops at the Downtown YMCA, with teams called Lions, Tigers and Bears, as well as Saturday afternoon televised pro hoops with our own Lindsey Nelson mikeside. Not to mention the backyard games in Holston Hills or other venues across East Knoxville.

We played hoops up the street at Ralph Ross' home on Westover Terrace, just across the street from a UT administrator named Edward J. Boling. Ralph's son, Roger, had been part of the games, and, to our amazement, Ralph let us continue to play there even after Roger went away to college. It was a great shooter's court. It had to be, because there was a brick wall a foot behind the baseline that discouraged aggressive driving to the hoop.

Ralph is still an amazing man even today, who says he enjoyed having activity, not to mention three or four cars, in his driveway most of the time. The basketball wasn't bad either. The games were fiercely contested, to 100 by ones. I kept score, much the way I did at the old Holston High School in Knoxville from 1964-66 or even today at Oak Ridge High School. Some things never change.

I will say that those of us who played in Ralph's driveway owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The one thing Holston High School did best in those days was win, mainly behind a silky-smooth guard named Jimmy England, who ended up as an All-America here at UT. Holston was 28-3 my senior year in 1966 and came within a second or two of the state championship a year later.

It was March 1967, in a week East Knoxville will never forget. The Warriors of Holston High School marched straight to the finals of the state tourney right here at Stokely, facing the Alcoa Tornadoes, the team you least wanted to play in a winner-take-all situation.

Alcoa won. In three OTs. No one who saw the game will forget the finish. The place was packed. Late in the third OT, England made a steal off David Marsh, now head coach at Alcoa, and converted a three-point play down at the north end. Sixteen seconds showed on the clock. Alcoa came back and made a layup and all that was left was to get the ball in England's hands or find another way to kill the remaining seconds. The dream was coming true. David has slain Goliath. Excalibur is being pulled from the stone. Happiness is on its way eastward down Magnolia Avenue to Holston High School.

It didn't make it. Alcoa stole the ball, called time out and David Davis drained a jumper from 18 feet out on the baseline on the side near the Tennessee bench. The ball caught iron and, from the perspective of 30 years, found its way through the hoop. Alcoa wins. Everyone is stunned. Everybody recovers. Barely.

The powers that be closed Holston High School in 1991. It's now a middle school, with a monthly pro wrestling show being held in the gym where so many great hoops memories were created. Unbelievable. The goal no longer hangs on the brick wall on Ralph Ross's driveway.

Time inexorably marches on. Regardless, the journey's been worth it. Hoops are still important.

— Tom Mattingly

In Our Next Issue: A review of the SEC Indoor Tennis Championships; basketball reviews; an interview with the basketball freshmen trio; and Lettermen News & Notes.

17th Annual Strength and Conditioning Clinic

The 17th Annual University of Tennessee Strength and Conditioning Clinic will be held on March 6-7 in the Neyland-Thompson Sports Complex.

Hotel accommodations can be made at the Holiday Inn World's Fair. For hotel reservations call (423) 522-2800, and must be made before Feb. 6, 1998. For other information please call Johnny Long at (423) 974-1221.

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A Look At The Vols...

EXCELLING IN A NEW STYLE OF PLAY!

A glance down the Tennessee roster shows practically everybody on the team being from the Southeast.

DaShay Jones is one of the two players who are not from the Southeast, hailing from Sandusky, Ohio. Jones being at Tennessee is not so unusual as several players from the Buckeye State have played at Tennessee, including the likes of Larry McIntosh, John Snow, Len Kosmalski and Howard Bayne.

The other player on the team not from the Southeast is not even from east of the Mississippi River. In fact he is anything but from the Southeast, as he hails from Arizona, and is the first person from Arizona to don the Orange and White and play basketball for UT.

Vegas Davis played his prep basketball at Parker High School in Parker, Ariz., which is right on the California-Arizona border. While at Parker, he was selected to the All-State team in both his senior and junior years. He averaged 23 points and seven rebounds per game his junior season and followed that up during his senior campaign with 30 points and nine boards a game. He also found time to serve his school as student body president.

After a successful high school career, Davis headed east to Tennessee and the green of the Appalachian Mountains. He has had to make some adjustments since his arrival though.

"The weather here is a lot different," he said. "It is colder over here, but it's pretty around here too. I saw a lot of green everywhere when I first got here and I was like 'There is grass everywhere.' It is hard to grow grass in Arizona."

Aside from bringing his different statehood to the team, Davis also adds cultural diversity to the basketball squad. Davis' heritage includes 50 percent Native American. His mother is Navajo, and Davis was raised on the Navajo Indian Reservation which is the country's largest Indian Reservation. He is proud to be a part of the Navajo Nation

"I am 50 percent black and 50 percent Native American," Davis said. "I lived with my mom and she is full-blooded Navajo, so my heritage is with me wherever I go."

Davis also brings loads of athletic ability with him. It is not an uncommon sight to see him come from virtually no where and grab a rebound or tip back a missed shot. It is something Vol players and fans alike expect from him.

"We call him the Mexican Jumping Bean," Brandon Wharton said. "He is a very hard guy to box out. You never know where he is going to come from. We need for Vegas to come out and play with his athletic ability."

All of the Vols are coming out and playing with their athletic ability this season. First-year head coach Jerry Green has installed an up-tempo offense into the Vol system. The team is averaging nearly 20 points more a game this season, and Davis is starting to excel in the transition game.

"Vegas can be a great player," Wharton said. "He is much more

Vegas Davis looks to take the ball to the hoop.

comfortable with his shot and he has hit some big shots so far. He has to be free and be able to run around on the floor. He needs to be able to use his athletic ability and he is able to do that this year."

Davis has hit some big shots. Case in point came in the last two games of the Vols season-opening eight-game home stand. In each game, he hit a 3-pointer during key scoring spurts for the Vols.

The first came in the Vols 92-63 win over Wofford.

With just under 12 minutes remaining in the game, the Vols held a 52-47 lead and could not put the Terriers away. But Aaron Green hit a 3-pointer and was followed by a 3-pointer from Wharton who was also fouled on his shot. He hit the free-throw to complete the four-point play and on the Vols' next possession, Davis hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key. After a Tony Harris lay-up, the five point lead had turned into a 64-50 advantage with 10 minutes left in the game.

With the outside shooting prowess of the team, the 3-pointer has become a lethal weapon for the Vols.

"The 3-point shot is going to big for us this year," Davis said. "We have got some good shooters on the team, and the 3-pointers are going to help us a lot. We are much more free to take our shots, and that helps with confidence."

Tennessee also used the 3-point shot effectively against St. Joseph's, a Sweet 16 team from a year ago.

With under five minutes left in the half, Tennessee held a 22-19 lead. But the Vols would go on a 13-2 run to close the half with Davis and the 3-point shot playing major roles in the scoring outburst.

The run started with a Davis 3-pointer, followed by C.J. Black hitting a short jumper. Then after a St. Joe's bucket, Davis hit a 10-footer in transition. That was followed by 3-pointers from Wharton and Green. Tennessee held a 35-21 lead at halftime and eventually won the game 74-54.

"I think the 3-point shot is a big weapon, especially with Tony at the point," Green said. "He can penetrate and dish it to inside guys for lay-ups. He can also penetrate and kick it to the wings for jump shots. That is hard to guard, and good teams are capable of doing that."

Along with a penetrating point guard, confidence is also helping the Vols, especially the increased confidence in Davis.

"I think it is all a matter of confidence," Green said. "No matter what sport you are playing you have to have confidence. Vegas has now got that confidence. He has played three or four good games in a row and he now has that confidence. I think you will see more good play out of Vegas."

Davis' playing time has increased because of an injury to Jones. He started in the win over St. Joseph's and realizes all the perimeter players have to step up their game in the absence of Jones.

"With DaShay injured, we have to pick-up what he gave us," Davis said. "We have to pick up our enthusiasm, our rebounding and our aggressiveness. Everybody has to work harder.

"The entire perimeter has to step up. We have to work harder. It is going to effect us a lot, but we have to play harder and come together as a team more."

The team concept has played an important role in Davis' two-year career at Tennessee. After last season, the Vols underwent a coaching change, and the opportunity for players to transfer was available. Some people thought Davis would be one of those players who would leave Tennessee, since he was so far from home. His relationship with his teammates though kept him Knoxville.

"My teammates were the reason I stayed along with the new coaching staff," Davis said. "I just couldn't leave my teammates. I had grown so close to them. I just couldn't leave them."

His teammates were glad to see him stay.

"We have a very close-knit team, and the guys that left wanted to stay in some ways," Wharton said. "Vegas knew we needed him, and he is going to be a big part of our team."

— Rob Hardin

"I think it is all a matter of confidence. No matter what sport you are playing you have to have confidence. Vegas has now got that confidence. He has played three or four good games in a row and he now has that confidence. I think you will see more good play out of Vegas."

—Aaron Green

A Look at UT Hoops...
Vols Knock Off Ole Miss!

After near misses in the last two SEC games, the Vols pulled it all together Jan. 17, to pull off a 77-67 win over No. 11 Mississippi at louder-than-usual Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Vols found themselves down 12-2 to start the game, but battled back and held a 27-26 lead at the half.

The Rebels took the lead back to start the second half, but Rashard Lee, who finished with 17 points, hit a runner in the lane which gave the Vols the lead for good with 18:24 left in the game.

Mississippi was not able to regain the lead, as Brandon Wharton, C.J. Black, Isiah Victor and company held off the visitors.

Wharton, who scored his 1000th point as a Vol in the win, had 20 points for Tennessee and was a steadying force at the point.

Black continued his solid play with 15 points and 13 rebounds, and Victor started to show more of offensive skills with 16 points.

The Vol lead in the second half ranged from one to 12 points, and the good guys had an answer for every charge by the Rebels.

Mississippi cut the lead to 50-49 with a 3-pointer with 6:30 to play, but Black answered with a dunk. Tennessee regained possession, and Wharton drained a 3-pointer to push the lead back out to 55-49.

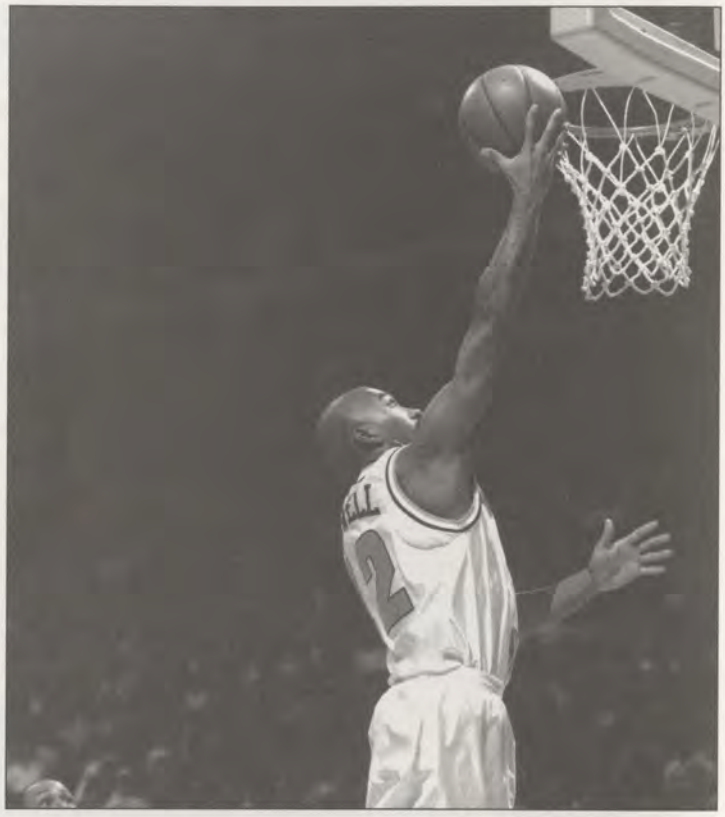
Another 3-pointer by Ole Miss was answered by a Wharton jumper. After trading free throws, Victor got the three the old-fashioned way to push the lead out to 62-54 with 4:12 on the clock. Mississippi got no closer than six points the rest of the game.

After opening the SEC slate with a loss to Florida, the Vols dropped the next two games before the win against Ole Miss.

A late rally by Tennessee fell short in a 80-79 loss to in-state rival Vanderbilt on Jan. 10 in Nashville.

Tennessee opened the game strong and finished strong, but the time in between was where Vanderbilt was able to win the game.

The Vols found themselves trailing by 18 points in the second half, then started to cut into the Commodore lead. Tennessee wiped out 17 points off the Vanderbilt lead and had a chance to win the game, but Wharton's last-second shot failed to drop.



Because of his play and hard work, senior guard Anthony Sewell has been awarded a scholarship by head coach Jerry Green.

Tony Harris hit a layup with 23 seconds to play cut the Commodore lead to 80-79. Vegas Davis then intercepted a long Vandy pass over a pressing Tennessee defense to give the Vols a shot a game-winning bucket.

"We already had a play set up because we had no timeouts left," Tennessee coach Jerry Green said. "We wanted to drive it in there. Brandon got in there pretty close. He's pretty good at that. He looked to pass first and shoot second and their post played it really well."

Wharton, who finished with 14 points - one of five Vols in double figures - had been called for a charge a minute earlier. It might have been on his mind.

"I just tried to make a play," he said. "I probably should have pulled up, maybe. I tried to draw the defenders to me and I saw a couple of people under the basket. I just couldn't really get it to them."

Tennessee held a 35-29 lead late in the first half, but Vanderbilt's Austin Bates, who finished with 22 points, scored the last eight points of the half to give the Commodores a 37-35 lead at the break. Teammate Drew Maddux, who tallied 19 points, opened the second half hot hitting three 3-pointers in a 13-2 Vanderbilt run to give his team a 52-41 lead.

The game got worse for UT in

the second half, as the Vandy lead eventually ballooned to 69-51 with 8:24 to play. The Vols rallied, though, giving them a chance to win with Wharton's shot.

Other Vols in the double figures were C.J. Black with 18 and Harris with 15. Rashard Lee added 14, and Isiah Victor totaled 11.

In the 74-69 loss to Auburn on Jan. 7, the Vols also staged a late rally that fell short.

The second-half deficit grew to 16 points before the Vols began their rally.

They got it down to 51-46 with the ball, but a turnover gave the ball back to the Tigers, and Doc Robinson nailed a 3-pointer with 7:28 to play to push the lead back out to eight.

UT's Torrey Harris then scored on a goaltending call to make it 54-48, but the Tigers got a four-point possession with baskets by Bryant Smith, a missed foul shot, and a jumper from Derek Caldwell. That made it 58-48 with 6:40 left.

The Vols eventually cut the gap to 72-69 with 20 seconds to play, but Auburn held on for the win.

Smith led Auburn with 16 points, Scott Pohlman had 15, and Mamadou N'Diaye added 13.

Lee had a career high for the Vols with 23 points and added nine rebounds as well. Wharton and Tony Harris had 12 each, and Black, who has been the fighting the flu bug, tossed in 11 in limited action.

Sewell awarded scholarship

Anthony Sewell's patience has paid off as Coach Green as awarded the three-year walk-on member of team a scholarship for the spring semester Sewell, a 5-foot-10 guard from Carter High School, has played in eight games this season.

"Anthony has certainly proven during his career that he is a hard worker and we have an opportunity to reward him for his final semester at Tennessee," Green said. "He continues to work hard in all phases of his game and this is a chance to show how much we as a staff appreciate his good effort."

EAST

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
Kentucky	5	0	1.000	16	2	.888
S.Carolina	3	2	.600	11	3	.785
Vanderbilt	3	2	.600	14	4	.769
Florida	2	3	.400	8	6	.571
Tennessee	1	3	.250	11	3	.785
Georgia	0	4	.000	8	8	.500

WEST

	Conference			Overall		
	W	L	PCT.	W	L	PCT.
Mississippi	3	1	.750	12	2	.857
Arkansas	3	1	.750	14	3	.823
Auburn	2	1	.667	10	4	.714
LSU	2	3	.400	9	6	.600
Miss. State	1	3	.250	12	5	.705
Alabama	1	3	.250	9	8	.529

Vanderbilt 80, Tennessee 79

TENNESSEE (10-3)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Lee	28	6-13	0-2	6	2	2	14
Black	34	5-8	8-8	4	1	4	18
T. Harris	13	0-2	2-2	2	0	5	2
A. Harris	37	5-14	4-5	4	3	4	15
Wharton	34	6-14	0-2	6	3	3	14
Green	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	0
Sewell	2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0
Moore	3	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0
Davis	20	2-3	0-0	0	1	3	5
Victor	25	4-8	3-4	8	1	4	11
TOTALS	200	28-64	17-23	31	11	27	79

Percentages: FG-.438, FT-.739. 3-Point Goals: 6-16, .375 (Lee 2-4, Black 0-1, A. Harris 1-5, Wharton 2-3, Sewell 0-1, Davis 1-2). Team rebounds: 1. Blocked shots: 4 (Black 2, Victor 2). Turnovers: 17 (A. Harris 4, Black 3, Lee 3, Wharton 3, Victor 2, Davis, Moore). Steals: 11 (Davis 3, Victor 3, A. Harris 2, Wharton 2, Black).

VANDERBILT (12-4)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Di Spaltro	17	2-5	0-1	5	2	5	4
Ford	32	1-3	3-4	1	0	0	5
Bates	34	8-16	6-8	6	0	3	22
Prater	24	1-4	6-8	3	5	5	8
Maddux	38	7-14	2-2	3	3	1	19
Strong	20	1-5	3-5	3	0	1	5
A Williams	2	1-2	1-1	1	0	2	3
Langhi	6	1-3	2-2	3	0	1	4
Lapointe	27	5-8	0-0	7	1	4	10
TOTALS	200	27-60	23-31	32	11	22	80

Percentages: FG-.450, FT-.742. 3-Point Goals: 3-9, .333 (Prater 0-3, Maddux 3-6). Team rebounds: 7. Blocked shots: 2 (Bates, Lapointe). Turnovers: 22 (Lapointe 5, Prater 4, Strong 4, Ford 3, Di Spaltro 2, Maddux 2, Bates, Langhi). Steals: 11 (Strong 5, Bates 3, Prater 3).

Tennessee	35	44	-	79
Vanderbilt	37	43	-	80

Technical fouls: None. A: 15,048. Officials: Rusty Herring, David Bair, Jamie Jones.

Auburn 74, Tennessee 69

AUBURN (10-3)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
B. Smith	37	7-12	2-6	10	8	2	16
Williams	27	3-5	0-1	2	1	4	6
Ndiaye	22	6-9	1-2	7	1	5	13
Pohlman	27	5-13	5-6	3	0	5	15
Robinson	30	3-11	2-2	4	2	5	9
Caldwell	22	1-3	0-1	5	2	0	2
Hughes	26	4-7	1-3	10	3	5	9
Fishback	5	0-0	4-9	0	0	0	4
Chilliest	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	2	0
TOTALS	200	29-60	15-30	41	17	28	74

Percentages: FG-.483, FT-.500. 3-Point Goals: 1-9, .111 (B Smith 0-2, Williams 0-1, Pohlman 0-4, Robinson 1-1, Caldwell 0-1). Team rebounds: 8. Blocked shots: 5 (Ndiaye 3, Williams, Hughes). Turnovers: 24 (Robinson 6, B Smith 4, Ndiaye 4, Caldwell 3, Pohlman 3, Fishback 2, Williams). Steals: 12 (B Smith 5, Robinson 3, Caldwell 2, Ndiaye, Williams).

TENNESSEE (10-2)

	min	fg	ft	rb	a	pf	tp
Black	21	3-3	4-6	1	0	2	11
Victor	17	1-5	1-2	4	3	4	3
Davis	30	1-4	0-0	2	4	2	2
Wharton	34	3-12	5-6	1	0	2	12
A. Harris	37	2-15	7-9	3	4	2	12
Lee	25	8-17	7-10	9	0	2	23
Moore	2	0-0	0-1	1	0	0	0
Baker	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Green	5	0-1	0-0	0	0	2	0
Sewell	7	0-0	0-0	3	1	2	0
T. Harris	20	2-3	2-3	5	0	2	6
TOTALS	200	20-60	26-37	29	12	20	69

Percentages: FG-.333, FT-.703. 3-Point Goals: 3-19, .158 (Black 1-1, Davis 0-2, Wharton 1-5, A. Harris 1-8, Lee 0-2, Green 0-1). Team rebounds: 8. Blocked shots: 1 (Victor). Turnovers: 18 (T. Harris 4, Davis 3, Wharton 2, Black, Lee, A. Harris, Victor). Steals: 9 (Lee 3, Davis 2, Black, A. Harris, Victor, Wharton).

Auburn	28	46	-	74
Tennessee	23	46	-	69

Technical fouls: Tennessee 1 (Bench). A: 13,221. Officials: Curtis Shaw, Kerry Sitton, Antinio Petty.

Green's Fast Break... Ole Miss Game 1-17-98

I thought we were a little rusty starting out, because we had not played in a week. We haven't had the opportunity to scrimmage against each other. After the rusty start, I thought it was the defense that carried us through. Ole Miss had 26 at the half, and they had been averaging 85 a game. So 26 is a big difference from the 42.5 they usually get, and they got 12 of those very, very quickly.

In the second half, we made some shots. We handled their pressure okay and they sure are a fine defensive basketball team. They got after us real good.

Brandon Wharton played the whole game and showed a lot of character to stay in control as much as he did.

Our defensive effort down the stretch was good and we really scrapped well. It was not ideal. We have played better than we have played tonight. We are really proud of our effort. They gave us the best effort that they could and I thought the people coming off the bench gave a really good effort.

We ran the fastbreak well because we got some loose balls and rebounded the ball well in the second half. We made some good outlet passes and took off with the ball and of course we like to do that. Against a good defensive team, you need some easy baskets.

Torrey Harris did a great job on Ansu Sesay. Torrey is our best post defender and now is showing the dimension that he can defend not only a post-up player but also a player driving to the goal. I think Torrey got two of his fouls by stopping people who had beaten our perimeter player guarding them. Torrey does a good job for us. Sesay had a good run for them. We made a change in our defense which cut down on some of their penetration.

Anthony Sewell gives us chance to give some of our guys a rest. I don't know how many turnovers he had, but I thought he was pretty darn solid. Anthony knows he has to play within himself. I am proud of him. There are times when he just sits over there and doesn't get to come in, but he did a good, solid job of helping us rest some of those guys.

"Rashard Lee has really lifted his game when we came into the Southeastern Conference schedule. I never would have expected that when we were on the foreign tour. I would never have thought he would be placing himself in that situation. He does score for us, and he has been rebounding well."

— Jerry Green

I told our team before the game that we are a good defensive team, so go out there and prove it tonight. We lost a couple of men, and missed some boxouts, but overall I was pleased with our defense.

I thought we could win this basketball game. I am not sure everybody thought we could win this game. When you haven't won in a quite a while (and Tennessee hasn't had a winning season in five years), you don't have a lot of confidence, especially with three starters and the eighth man sitting on the bench in street clothes. The kids that we have though are pretty good players. I thought Brandon really showed good maturity at the point guard and held things together for us when things got a little hectic.

We were trying to run a lot of sets early and they took that away from us. We started running a little motion and did a good job of driving the basketball down in the lane.

I think Isiah Victor is really improving. The key for him offensively is for him to know what he is going to do with the ball. When he knows what he is going to do with the ball, he is as good as anybody we have got in the low post. He is maturing. He nailed a few free throws in there as well and played pretty good defense. He is getting tougher mentally.

I just hope we stay competitive with all the injuries. We could have won the Auburn and Vanderbilt games. We didn't win, but we put ourselves in position to.

—Jerry Green

1998 TENNESSEE BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
Friday	Jan. 30	%North Carolina State	Orlando, Fla	11:00 a.m.
Saturday	Jan. 31	%Duke	Orlando, Fla.	11:00 a.m.
Sunday	Feb. 1	%Florida State	Orlando, Fla.	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	Feb. 12	College of Charleston	Charleston, S.C.	2:30 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 13	#Old Dominion	Charleston, S.C.	10:00 a.m.
Saturday	Feb. 14	#The Citadel	Charleston, S.C.	1:30 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 15	#Western Carolina	Charleston, S.C.	1:30 p.m.
Friday	Feb. 20	Mercer	Macon, Ga.	4:00 p.m.
Saturday	Feb. 21	Mercer	Macon, Ga.	12:00 p.m.
Sunday	Feb. 22	Mercer	Macon, Ga.	2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Feb. 25	Carson-Newman	Jefferson City, Tenn.	3:00 p.m.
Friday	**Feb. 27**	**Morehead State**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**3:00 p.m.**
Saturday	**Feb. 28**	**Morehead State**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Sunday	**Mar. 1**	**Morehead State**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Wednesday	Mar. 4	East Tennessee State	Johnson City, Tenn.	3:00 p.m.
Friday	Mar. 6	*Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	6:30 p.m. CT
Saturday	Mar. 7	*Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	2:00 p.m. CT
Sunday	Mar. 8	*Mississippi State	Starkville, Miss.	1:00 p.m. CT
Tuesday	**Mar. 10**	**Austin Peay**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**3:00 p.m.**
Wednesday	**Mar. 11**	**Austin Peay**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**3:00 p.m.**
Friday	Mar. 13	*South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Mar. 14	*South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	2:00 p.m.
Sunday	Mar. 15	*South Carolina	Columbia, S.C.	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday	**Mar. 17**	**UNC Asheville**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Wednesday	**Mar. 18**	**UNC Asheville**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Friday	**Mar. 20**	***Kentucky**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Saturday	**Mar. 21**	***Kentucky**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Sunday	**Mar. 22**	***Kentucky**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Wednesday	**Mar. 25**	**Carson-Newman**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Friday	**Mar. 27**	***Florida**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Saturday	**Mar. 28**	***Florida**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Sunday	**Mar. 29**	***Florida**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Tuesday	**Mar. 31**	**Tennessee Wesleyan**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Wednesday	**Apr. 1**	**East Tennessee State**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Friday	Apr. 3	*Georgia	Athens, Ga.	7:00 p.m.
Saturday	Apr. 4	*Georgia	Athens, Ga.	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	Apr. 5	*Georgia	Athens, Ga.	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Apr. 7	Tennessee Tech	Cookeville, Tenn.	5:00 p.m. CT
Wednesday	Apr. 8	Middle Tennessee State	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	7:00 p.m. CT
Friday	Apr. 10	*Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	7:00 p.m. CT
Saturday	Apr. 11	*Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	2:00 p.m. CT
Sunday	Apr. 12	*Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	2:00 p.m. CT
Wednesday	**Apr. 15**	**Tennessee Tech**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Friday	**Apr. 17**	***Arkansas**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Saturday	**Apr. 18**	***Arkansas**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**5:00 p.m.**
Sunday	**Apr. 19**	***Arkansas**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**1:00 p.m.**
Wednesday	Apr. 22	Middle Tennessee State	Chattanooga, Tenn.	7:00 p.m.
Friday	**Apr. 24**	***Auburn**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Saturday	**Apr. 25**	***Auburn**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Sunday	**Apr. 26**	***Auburn**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Tuesday	Apr. 28	Virginia Tech	Kingsport, Tenn.	6:00 p.m.
Friday	May 1	*LSU	Baton Rouge, La.	6:00 p.m. CT
Saturday	May 2	*LSU	Baton Rouge, La.	1:00 p.m. CT
Sunday	May 3	*LSU	Baton Rouge, La.	1:00 p.m. CT
Tuesday	**May 5**	**Georgia State**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Friday	**May 8**	***Vanderbilt**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Saturday	**May 9**	***Vanderbilt**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**7:00 p.m.**
Sunday	**May 10**	***Vanderbilt**	**Knoxville, Tenn.**	**2:00 p.m.**
Wed.-Sun.	May 13-17	SEC Tournament	Birmingham, Ala.	
Fri.-Sun.	May 21-24	NCAA Regionals	TBA	
	May 29-June 6	College World Series	Omaha, Neb.	

**Southeastern Conference Game*
%The Disney Classic, Orlando, Fla.
#Franklin Life Classic, Charleston, S.C.

ALL TIMES EASTERN UNLESS INDICATED

Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... Vol Hoops History

The game of basketball has been a constantly evolving sport ever since Dr. James Naismith hung the peach basket up on the balcony railing of the Springfield, Mass., YMCA gym in 1895. So when we revisit University of Tennessee basketball of any specific era, we find a game that was radically different from the game that was played 20 years earlier or 20 years later.

While I was doing research for the book "The Basketball Vols," I found the 1920s to be one of the most interesting periods in the game as it was played on The Hill, even though it was a relatively undistinguished era in terms of great teams and championships. A number of historical "firsts" took place then that were to bear significantly on UT cage history.

For instance, UT became a member of a new conference, the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, in February 1921. Generally called the Southern Conference, that rather cumbersome league stretched from the east coast to Texas, involving some 25 member schools. It remained intact for 12 years, until Tennessee and 12 other institutions withdrew to form the Southeastern Conference in 1933.

The Southern always held its postseason championship tournament at Atlanta, and the 1922 tourney produced one of the strangest stories in UT cage annals.

The Vols met Mississippi College in the first round of that tournament, a game which saw the star of the team, forward Ross Reeder, turn in one of the greatest performances any Tennessee player has ever recorded to this day. There was a rule in force at the time that enabled each team to designate one player to shoot all of its free throws regardless of who had drawn the foul, and Reeder was that man for the Vols.

When an exhausted Reeder went to the sideline in the final minute of play, the score was tied 18-18, and he had scored all his team's points. When a Vol was fouled in the closing minutes, teammate Con Troutman was selected by coach M.B. Banks to shoot the free throw. He made it, and the Vols won, 19-18.Another teammate, guard Earl Keister, later told this story.

"Ross could hardly wait for the next morning's newspaper so he could read about what a big star he was," Keister recalled. "But when he turned to the sports page, the headline said, 'Troutman's Shot Wins For Tennessee.' It almost killed Ross. He had scored 18 of our 19 points, and he wasn't even mentioned until way down in the story.!"

It was during this period, too, that the basketball Vols finally found an off-campus home. For years, they had played their home games at the old Downtown YMCA, but a new football field had been built in 1921, known as Shields-Watkins Field, leaving old Waite Field at the corner of Cumberland and 15th Street abandoned. The university built a new basketball arena and assembly hall on that site. Jefferson Hall remained the site of Vol games until it burned down nine years after if first went into service in the 1922-23 season,

The early twenties also witnessed the end of one of basketball's most thankless positions, the standing guard. Up until then, one guard was stationed at the midcourt line when his team had the ball in the frontcourt to protect against the opponent's fast break. Keister was the last man ever to serve in that capacity for Tennessee.

"I played standing guard in my freshman year (1920-21) and for most of my sophomore year," he said. Of course, I almost never scored any points, just very rarely on a snowbird or something like that. But I had a pretty good two-hand set shot, and in my second year coach Banks started letting me come into the front court and get into the stream of play. And after that season we never went back to the standing guard again."

The late twenties saw Bill Britton, Bob Neyland's righthand man in football, take over the coaching reins with the basketball team. The brightest star of those years was Elvin Butcher, who broke in with a 19-point performance in the first game of his sophomore season in 1926 and went on to lead the team for three years. Even Butcher's virtuosity, however, was not enough to rescue the 1927-28 team from the worst season in UT hardwood history. The Vols of 70 years ago played 13 games and lost them all!

Former Vol

Wes Coffman

(1967, 68)

Wes Coffman came to Tennessee from Erlington, Ky., and was a key member of the Vols' 1966-67 SEC Championship team. He played a major role in the Vols' drive to the crown that season, taking over at the point when Billy Hann was injured and quarterbacking the Vols to three victories, including a showdown triumph over Vanderbilt.

He was described as "one of the squad's best students of the game, an excellent defensive man and good practitioner of one-on-one manuevers on offense."

Coffman now lives in Lexington and is a dentist.

Wes Coffman was right there when the Vols needed him most in the SEC Championship season of 1966-67.

Congratulations

We would like to send out congratulations to one of our own, as Associate Sports Information Director David Grim and his wife, Kathy, are parents for the first time with the arrival of Sarah Elizabeth on Sunday, Jan. 11, at UT Hospital. Sarah Elizabeth weighed in at five pounds, three ounces and measured 19 1/4 inches. Congratulations to David and Kathy.

Baseball Teams Opens Winter Practice

The 13th ranked Tennessee Volunteers opened pre-season practice for their 1998 campaign on Sunday, Jan. 11 at Lindsey Nelson Stadium. The Vols will open their season on Jan. 30 at the Disney Classic in Orlando, Fla., against North Carolina State at the new state of the art Wide World of Sports Complex.

Fulmer, Brown and Poole Participate in East-West Shrine Game.

Tennessee head football coach Phillip Fulmer led the East squad in the 73rd annual East-West Shrine game in Palo Alto, Calif., on Saturday, Jan. 10. Also representing the Vols was defensive end Jonathan Brown and guard/tackle Robert Poole. The West won the game 24-7.

Vol Netters Finish Milwaukee Tennis Classic

The Tennessee men's tennis team finished their first tournament of the 1998 season, as four Vols competed in singles and doubles action during the week's tournament.

In singles action, Chad Copenhaver won his first two matches before having to withdraw because of a back injury. Copenhaver defeated Jeff Bill of Illinois State 6-0, 6-3 in the first round. In the second round, Copenhaver beat John Long of West Virginia 6-7(4), 6-3, 7-6(10). After that struggle, Copenhaver was forced to withdraw before his match with Oliver Freelove of Illinois.

Vol Kaspar Rasmussen defeated Ben Schreiber of Illinois 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 before dropping his second round match to David Chang of Wisconsin 6-1, 6-0.

Tennessee's Mark Way beat Jon Coles of Valparaiso 6-1, 6-4. Way then lost his second round match to Mark Loughrin of Wisconsin 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Vol Mark Parsons lost his first round match to Clayton Stanley of Texas 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. Parsons went on to the consolation round where he defeated Micah Zomer of Kansas 6-3, 6-0. Parsons then defeated Eric Sobotka of Penn 6-3, 6-0. In the third round of the consolation bracket, Parsons lost to Jeff Malik of Wisconsin 6-4, 7-5.

In doubles action, the Vols saw Rasmussen and Parsons drop their first round match to Freelove and Gavin Sontag of Illinois 6-2, 6-3. Copenhaver and Way were forced to pull out of competition due to Copenhaver's injury.

The Vols next action came at the SEC Indoor Championships held at the UT Tennis Complex on the UT campus. We will have results from that tournament in our next issue.

Manning Receives 1998 NCAA Today's Top VIII Award

Senior Quarterback Peyton Manning was selected as a 1998 recipient of an NCAA Today's Top VIII Award. The Today's Top VIII, selected by the NCAA Honors Committee, recognizes distinguished student-athletes from the preceding calendar year for athletics, academic achievement, character and leadership. The Today's Top VIII were recognized at the honors dinner held on Jan. 11 at the Hyatt Regency during the NCAA Convention in Atlanta, Ga.

Freshman diver Gabi Chereches, a Rumanian native, claimed the three-meter and platfomr diving titles at the Georgia Diving Invitational on Jan. 3-4.

Manning Receives NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship

The NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship Committee has awarded Manning a $5000 scholarship for postgraduate study at the university or professional school of his choice. Manning was one of nine Division I-A athletes to be selected.

Manning became the ninth Tennessee student-athlete to receive the honor, the last being basketball guard Lang Wiseman in 1993.

Cheer Squad and Dance Team Place in Nationals

The University of Tennessee Vols Cheerleading Squad finished third nationally at the Universal Cheerleaders Association/Universal Dance Association Cheer and Dance Collegiate Nationals held in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 9-10, the Disney/MGM Studios. The Vol cheerleaders finished behind Alabama and Kentucky as the SEC swept the top three positions. The Vol squad could have claimed second place, but a miscalculation in the time of their dance music placed them in third position. A total of 17 collegiate squads made it to the finals in Orlando.

As for the Vol Dance Squad, they finished sixth out of 16 squads in the Dance Finals also held at the Disney/MGM Studios.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

For more information on men's athletics check out our website at: http://www.utsports.com

This Week In Big Orange Country

Tennessee Bumps Michigan from Team Attendance Title

EDITOR'S NOTE: KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (From an AP story Jan. 1,-1998)

A stadium expansion and Peyton Manning at quarterback helped Tennessee end Michigan's stranglehold on the national team attendance title for the 1997 season.

Michigan had won the title in each of the past 24 seasons and drew 516 more fans in 1997. But the Wolverines wound up second to Tennessee by 90 fans, 106,538 to 106,448 in average home attendance. Tennessee topped the 100,000 mark in all six home games this season, while setting school attendance records in four of those home games. The Homecoming attendance of 107,073 was the second largest crowd, behind the 107,608 crowd when the Vols hosted Florida last season, ever to watch a Tennessee football game. Other record crowds during the 1997 season included: 106,683 (4th), 106,656 (5th), 106,301 (6th), 106,285 (8th) and 106,229 (9th).

Tennessee officials were thrilled to hear the news.

"I take delight anytime we're No. 1 in any category. I do take pleasure in that," said chancellor Bill Snyder.

Despite the arrival of the NFL's Oilers from Houston, Tennessee attracted 1,120 more fans per game, many interested in watching Manning's final season. The Oilers, playing six hours away in Memphis, averaged a NFL-low 28,028.

More people attended college football games in 1997 than ever before with more than 36 million watching Division I-A, I-AA, II and III, an increase of nearly 775,000 than 1996. The biggest jump came in Division I-A where an average of 42,085 fans watched games, an increase of nearly 1 million.

Penn State was third in total attendance with 97,086 followed by Ohio State (91,486), Florida (85,463), Auburn (83,545) and Georgia (82,396). Notre Dame (80,145), LSU (80,145) and South Carolina (80,007) rounded out the top 10.

By conference, the Big Ten attracted more fans per game with 67,776 with the Southeastern Conference second with a record high 65,857. The Big 12 was third despite a drop of 165 fans per game to 51,277.

The biggest decrease in attendance came in the Big East, which ranked sixth with 36,023, where 2,825 fewer people watched the games.

Vol fans poured into Neyland Stadium in record numbers, allowing Tennessee to lead the nation in attendance.

Lady Vol Track And Field Is "Back On Track"

After serving as an assistant coach last season, helping Tennessee to an 18th-place finish at the NCAA Outdoor Championships and decorating seven All-Americans, Myrtle Ferguson steps behind the wheel of the Big Orange machine to replace Dorothy Doolittle. With all seven of those standouts returning in 1998, and several other letterwinners capable of achieving national honors, it appears Ferguson, along with help from assistants Scott Bennett (field events) and Brenda Webb (distance events), has the Lady Vols "Back On Track".

One group Ferguson won't have to worry about is the sprint contingent. Tennessee returns everyone from a unit that was the strength of last year's team. Returning All-Americans include seniors Anissa Campbell and Saidah Jones, juniors Janelle Briggs, Heather Sumpter, Kelli White and Erica Witter, and sophomore Lesly Love.

Kelli White is an All-America sprinter who will lead coach Myrtle Ferguson's sprint-corps.

White received the most honors in 1997, earning certificates indoors in the 200m and outdoors for the 100m, 200m and 4x100mR. She anchored that relay to third-place at NCAAs. Jones, meanwhile, brought home All-America outdoor honors in the 400m, 4x100mR and 4x400mR, running the final leg of the 1600m event to finish fifth.

Earning national accolades in the 4x100mR for the second consecutive season were Campbell and Sumpter, who helped the unit improve from fifth to third. Witter earned the A-A distinction again, this time in the 4x400mR, while Briggs and Love joined her to pick up their first national awards.

Joining those standouts will be sophomores Quintessa Harps (100m, 200m, 400m), Marquita Knight (200m, 400m), Jabeanna Morris (55m, 100m, 200m) and Erin Rinear (400m), and freshman Natalie Johnson (100m, 200m, 400m). This group provides depth in the sprints and gives Tennessee a variety of relay options.

The middle distance runners are headed by senior Maureen Ferris and sophomore Kristen Ritter. Ferris returns for her final campaign after redshirting last season. She finished third in the 800m at the 1996 SEC Outdoor Championships and enters the year as the team's best performer in the 800m and 1500m. Not far behind is Ritter. One of the league's top rookies, she comes off a fantastic 1997 cross country season, which saw her finish as UT's top runner in every race and earn all-region honors after placing 21st at the NCAA District IX Championships. Joining that pair in the 800m will be Briggs, whose PR in the event is just behind Ritter's.

In the 1500m, seniors Dorothy Denko and Melissa Hiller, sophomores Meghan Mantlo and Mindy Watkins and freshman Pam Lyons will push Ferris and Ritter. With the addition of fall teammates Amy Bartosik and Katherine Green, Tennessee's distance brigade is set.

— Brad Laux

A Look At The Lady Vols...

DEFENSE! TURNING UP THE HEAT!

Tennessee avenged last year's 71-62 loss to the Florida Lady Gators in Thompson-Boling Arena with a 99-60 pounding. Down 10-6 with just under five minutes played, Tennessee went on a 51-8 run to close the half. The 39 point lead was established due to Chamique Holdsclaw's 21 first half points. Tennessee forced 23 turnovers and notched 12 steals.

With the win, Tennessee improved to 17-0 and 4-0 in the SEC while Florida dropped to 11-4 while incurring their first SEC loss (3-1).

Holdsclaw set a career high as she poured in 37 points bringing her to fourth on the all-time scoring list surpassing Mary Ostrowski. Holdsclaw also pulled down 9 boards and dished out 7 assists. Semeka Randall also contributed 10 points on 5-5 shooting, and Kellie Jolly added 10 points and 6 assists.

After scoring eight points in the first half, Tamika Catchings was forced out of the game when she collided with a Lady Gator going for a steal. Catchings received stitches over her left eye and remained out of the game.

Kristen "Ace" Clement is one of the Vols' outstanding freshmen who is making an impact on Pat Summitt's Lady Vol program. In late week action, Clement and the Lady Vols won at Georgia by 96-71 and at Kentucky 93-65.

Tennessee forced 30 turnovers for the game and collected 16 steals. UT shot 53% from the floor while holding Florida to 33%, shooting just a paltry 25% in the first stanza. Tennessee did have a small predicament near the end of the game as LaShonda Stephens, Kyra Elzy, Randall, and Teresa Geter all fouled out. With Niya Butts nursing sore shins, Holdsclaw had to play the final minutes of the game as the fifth player.

FLORIDA (60)

Page 6-11 3-6 15, Bingham 3-8 0-0 9, Stocks 1-2 6-8 8, Hudson 2-7 4, Smith 0-5 1-3 1, Travis 4-15 10-11 18, Freeman 0-0 0-0 0, Washington 2-7 1-2 5, O'Neil 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 18-55 21-30 60.

TENNESSEE (99)

Holdsclaw 15-21 6-11 37, Catchings 3-5 2-4 8, Stephens 1-7 2-2 4, Elzy 4-8 0-0 8, Jolly 4-5 0-0 10, Randall 6-6 2-2 14, Geter 2-6 3-4 7, Clement 1-8 2-4 4, Greene 0-4 0-0 0, Laxton 1-2 1-3 3, Butts 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 39-74 18-30 99.

In Columbia, the Lady Vols used Randall's game-high 21 points as Tennessee rolled 92-54 over South Carolina to improve to 16-0 overall and 3-0 in the SEC. Teresa Geter scored 9 points and grabbed a team-high 10 boards playing in front of her hometown, Columbia, S.C.

Chamique Holdsclaw added 16 points and 9 rebounds while Tamika Catchings had 15 points and 8 rebounds. Jolly also contributed 13 points on 6 of 7 shooting. Tennessee managed more points (53) in the first half then did South Carolina (52) entire game as the Lady Vols extended their win streak to 22 games over the Lady Gamecocks who fell to 7-7 and 0-4 in the SEC.

TENNESSEE (94)

Holdsclaw 7-16 2-3 16, Catchings 5-12 5-7 15, Stephens 3-7 0-0 6, Elzy 2-5 2-4 6, Jolly 6-7 0-1 13, Butts 1-2 0-0 2, Greene 0-2 0-0 0, Randall 8-13 5-5 21, Laxton 0-2 1-4 1, Clement 1-2 3-4 5, Geter 3-5 3-3 9. Totals 36-73 21-31 94.

SOUTH CAROLINA (52)

White 0-3 0-0 0, Lester 11-23 0-1 22, Carr 2-7 1-3 5, Williams 4-11 2-4 10, Miars 2-8 2-4 6, Godfrey 2-7 0-0 6, Ramsey 0-0 1-2 1, Jeffcoat 0-0 0-0 0, Lee 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 22-63 6-14 52.

In what would be the earliest showdown in 1998 of two of the nation's top teams, the top-ranked Lady Vols topped UCONN 84-69 keeping its undefeated record and No. 1 ranking. The game also set a new collegiate record for attendance as 24,597 fans showed up; over 800 fans had to be turned away. The CBS-aired game was played in quarters for a trial.

Tennessee shot out to a 9-0 lead to start the game and continued to a 23-17 first quarter lead.

Tennessee extended the lead to 42-28 at the half including a 17 point lead at one time. Catchings and Holdsclaw led the way with 11 and 10 points respectively.

The third quarter belonged to the Huskies as they mounted a run that cut the Lady Vol lead to just one point before a Jolly three sparked the Lady Vols back to an 8-point lead. Tennessee regained their poise in the 4th quarter pushing the lead back to 17 points before settling at 84-69. Tennessee held All-American Nykesha Sales in check for most of the game. Sales scored just 4 points through three periods but had 8 of her 12 points in the final period.

Holdsclaw topped all scorers with 25 points to go along with 6 steals, 5 boards, and 4 assists. Randall came up big in the final period scoring 16 of her 23 points. Randall also had a game high 10 rebounds. Catchings ended up with 17 points, 9 rebounds and 3 blocks. Svetlana Abrosimova led UCONN with 14 points and Amy Duran added 13. For the game UCONN outshot Tennessee 53% to 44% while the Lady Vols outrebounded the Huskies 41-28. The win boosted UT's record to 15-0 while UCONN fell to 12-1 while UCONN still holds the series advantage at 3-4.

UCONN (69)

Hansmeyer 1-3 2-5 4, Sales 6-16 0-0 12, Sauer 5-7 2-3 12, Duran 4-8 4-4 13, Williams 4-5 1-2 9, Abrosimova 4-11 2-3 14, Schumacher 0-0 2-3 3, Hunt 1-1 0-0 2, Glenney 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 27-51 14-22 69.

TENNESSEE (84)

Holdsclaw 9-19, 7-7 25, Catchings 4-5 7-8 17, Stephens 0-4 0-0 0, Elzy 4-8 1-2 9, Jolly 1-6 0-0 3, Randall 8-12 7-8 23, Geter 2-7 1-3 5, Clement 0-3 2-2 2. Totals 28-64 25-30 84.

—Lady Vol Staff

VASF News and Notes

VASF Donor Deadline is March 1

The deadline for contributions for priority on football benefits, including home season tickets, is March 1, 1998. The contributions must be received in the VASF Office by March 1. Now is a great time to go ahead and make your 1998 contribution and help the VASF reach its goal for the 1998 campaign. You may charge your donation by phone if you like with VISA, MasterCard, or Discover Cards by dialing the VASF office at (423) 974-1218.

VASF to Announce Anticipated Donor Minimums for 1998 Football Benefits

Watch this space in upcoming issues for the anticipated donor minimums for 1998 football benefits. In response to numerous member requests, the Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund staff will estimate the minimum donor levels and point totals for away football game ticket priority and home game parking priority for the 1998 season. While these minimums are tentative and may change between now and the time the actual applications for tickets are mailed in April, these approximations should help shed some light on the process before the March 1 donor deadline passes.

Baseball Season Tickets

Applications for 1998 Baseball Season Tickets are still available. Reserved Bleacher-Back and bleacher General Admission seats are available. Don't miss a game on the home slate this year. If you are interested in obtaining some of these great tickets, contact Chip Bryant in the Marketing office at (423) 974-1218. The first home game is only a few weeks away and is set for Friday, Feb. 27, 1998, against Morehead State. Game time is set for 3 p.m.

Baseball Birthday Parties

This year kids of all ages will have the opportunity to celebrate their birthdays in style with Tennessee baseball. Each complete birthday party includes tickets and beverages for 12. Also included are three large pizzas, an autographed baseball for that special someone, a visit by a Tennessee player or coach, and public address and message board recognition during the game. Each complete birthday party is $80. For more information about this exciting new program, contact the Athletic Development Office at (423) 974-1218.

Aqua Vols Throw You the Towel

The nationally ranked Tennessee men's swimming and diving teams host the ranked Florida Gators, Feb. 7, in their last home meet and last regular-season meet of the 1997-98 campaign. The first 300 fans will receive a free towel compliments of Sea Ray Boats. Admission is free and the meet begins at 1 p.m. Contact Josh Thurman in the Office of Sports Information at (423) 974-1212 for details.

Men's Free Basketball Parking

The athletic department will sponsor free basketball parking and shuttle service from Tennessee's agricultural campus this year for all home games. Contact parking services at (423) 974-6011 for more information. The next men's home basketball game is Wed., Feb. 4, 1998, against Georgia. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m.

Gift Acknowledgements and Tax Summaries

Please keep your acknowledgement letter that the VASF sends after each gift is made. The VASF only sends tax acknowledgement letters as the gifts are received. There will NOT be an end-of-the-year letter stating all tax-year contributions. Contact the Athletic Development office at (423) 974-1218 for more information.

O'Charley's Tennis Classic

The University of Tennessee will host the annual O'Charley's Tennis Classic at the UT Indoor Tennis Center on Jan. 31-Feb. 1. The event will give everyone a chance to see new head coach Michael Fancutt's charges in action. Admission is free and the events run all day on both days. William & Mary, Indiana, and Michigan State are slated to take on the Vols during this weekend. Contact Nathan Kirkham in the Office of Sports Information at (423) 974-1212 for more information.

— Steve Sams

Hey VOL fans - Imagine sunny days, warm weather and the smell of fresh hot dogs. Sounds good, doesn't it? With only weeks to go before opening the 1998 baseball season, season tickets are on sale now and good seats are still available.

This year we have added special packages just for you - the FANS. Tennessee begins its home game season with a three game series against Morehead State on Feb. 27 - Mar. 1. Get your tickets to a great spring full of action and excitement as the Vols return to Lindsey Nelson Stadium to defend their 1997 SEC East Championship.

For more information call the ticket office at (423) 656-1200 to charge by phone with a Visa, Master Card, or Discover Card.

The Last Word...

"Man on a Mission!"

Vol fans had never seen anything like it, now or ever. It was a combination Barnum and Bailey and Chautauqua Show, with a touch of Norman Vincent Peale, Dale Carnegie and some intense gamesmanship thrown in for good measure. Ray Mears was, for better or for worse, the Robert Montgomery Knight of his day: volatile, competitive, combative and possessing a single-minded approach to the game. This year, 1997-98, marks the 35th anniversary of his taking the helm of the Vol program. Could it have really been that long ago?

It was in the 1962-63 season, back in the days of the old Armory Fieldhouse in the days before Sports Center, that the Vol basketball program turned a corner with the hiring of Mears, then the coach at Wittenberg (Ohio) University, as the Vol head man.

Make no mistake about it. From the beginning, Mears breathed new life into the Vol cage program, one which had fallen on hard times, and made it a consistent SEC contender in his his first two years.

The Vols finished seventh in the SEC that first year, which wasn't bad, considering the previous year's contingent had finished 12th in a field of 12. His next team finished second and the rest is, as they say, history.

Before Mears' arrival, the Vols had finished in the SEC's second division nine of the previous 13 years. They had not finished in the upper division of the SEC since a fourth place finish in the 1952-53 season. They had lost 22 of the last 23 against Kentucky. But Ray Mears changed all that.

"I was very fortunate in a couple of respects," mears said, recalling his hiring as Vol head coach. "First, the team had a 4-19 record the year before, which meant there was hardly any direction to go but up. John Sines, the previous Vol coach, had left me some remarkable young material. A.W. Davis was coming into his sophomore year. Danny Schultz had been recruited from Hiawassee Junior College and there were fellows like Pat Robinette and Bobby Hogsett coming up."

Mears was a coach one writer called "a portrait of determination." An early 1960s Sports Illustrated article called him a "bear for details," a man with a "brooding insistence on perfection." That article, which can still be found in the SID files, bears the hand-written inscription, probably the work of fellow Ohioan Jim McDonald, of "A Great Coach."

One of the highlights of the Mears years was a 69-62 victory in 1966 over No. 1 Kentucky in the last game played at the Armory Fieldhouse. Mears accepts congratulations from assistant coach A.W. Davis (right).

In the early days, he must have sounded a bit like basketball's version of Gen. Neyland. Don't beat yourself and get good shots, he said, until all of Knoxville knew that mantra by heart. "We are willing to wait for our shots until the odds of making it are in our favor," he said. "Missing wild shots and giving up the ball to your opponent time after time cannot possibly lead to victory."

He was a gamesman of the best sort, working hard to get any edge he could. He was unapologetic about it. "Sure, I do," he once said, "and I don't think it's unsportsmanlike. If I can get somebody else thinking a subject other than the game itself, then I'll use something. I don't apologize for it."

Mears' teams brought excitement to the Armory Fieldhouse, later to be known as Stokely Athletics Center.

The Mears years were characterized by enough hoopla to make Barnum and Bailey blush, the lowering of the houselights for player introductions, with Vol players introduced through a giant "T." When Stokely was opened in 1966-67, the Vol Pep Band marched around the floor pre-game. There was the Orange Tie Club, an expanded Vol Network, the sobriquet of "Big Orange Country," fancy ballhandling drills, and, with apologies to John Ward, a host of other activities. Stokely Center was the place to be on winter nights when the Vols were in town.

"Tennessee has been all I ever wanted," Mears said the day he retired in March 1978. "I feel fortunate to have been even a very small part of this great school. I hope I had something to do with the continuing development. I tried.

That's an understatement. Mears brought the Vols out of the basketball darkness into the sunlight of the 1960s, 70s and even into the 80s. There never was anybody quite like Ray Mears.

One final note. Mears' final victories at Tennessee, ones which helped cinch the SEC title in 1977, were against those old nemeses, Kentucky and Vanderbilt. It was fitting that Mears closed with a five-game winning streak against Kentucky and won five of his last six against the Commodores. He was literally a man with a mission. Mission accomplished.

—Tom Mattingly

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

An Official Publication of the
UT Athletic Department
P.O. Box 15016
Knoxville, TN 37901-5016
UTPA# EO1-8601-10-001-98

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January 23, 1998

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